

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 were pending in the application. Claims 2, 13, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 21-24 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-19, and 21-24 remain pending in the application.

### **Objection to the Drawings:**

Applicant has amended Figure 1 in accordance with the Examiner's instructions, and thus submits that this objection has been overcome. A full set of formal drawings is submitted herewith, including a replacement sheet with the amended Figure 1.

### **35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections:**

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-16, and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rhee, U.S. Patent 6,804,790. Claims 3, 9, 14, 17 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhee. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to the § 102(e) rejections, **the cited reference fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims.** Rhee teaches a multi-processor computing system including a plurality of processing units in which each of the plurality of processing units operates at clock frequency and a coordinating protocol is used to assign tasks and operations to any of the plurality of processing units in a manner such that the power efficiency of the system is optimized.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites:

"A method for operating a computer system comprising a first and a second computing unit, the method comprising selecting a first clock frequency for operation of said first computing unit, wherein said first frequency is a function of a first predetermined number allocated to said first computing unit, and selecting a second clock frequency for operation of said second computing unit, wherein said second frequency is a function of a second predetermined number allocated

to said second computing unit, wherein said first and said second frequencies differ one from the other by at least a predetermined bandwidth.”

Independent claims 12 and 19 recite similar combinations of features.

In the office action, the Examiner contends Rhee discloses allocating a predetermined number to each of the first and second computing units and setting said first and second clock frequency as a function of said number. In support of this contention, the Examiner cites several portions of Rhee. However, while the portions of Rhee cited by the Examiner teach processing units operating at different frequencies (e.g., col. 3, lines 28-31), none of these citations teach or suggest that these frequencies are a function of a predetermined number. Furthermore, in col. 2, lines 5-10, Rhee states:

“The invention results from the realization that, in a multi-tasking, multi-processor environment, the power efficiency of the system can be optimized by coordinating the usage of processing units such that tasks are run on the appropriate speed processing unit and unused processing units are placed in sleep mode.”

In light of the above citation, Applicant submits that the apparatus taught by Rhee assigns clock frequencies to processing units on the basis of power efficiency, and thus does not assign clock frequencies based on predetermined numbers allocated to respective computing units.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Rhee does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims, and thus respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection.

With respect to the § 103 rejection, Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons stated above, the prior art teachings fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of the

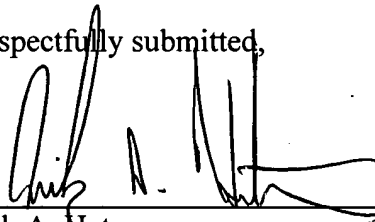
independent claims, and thus a case of obviousness has not been established. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-92600/EAH.

Respectfully submitted,



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